

**Finding Aid to
Washington Women's Art Center Collection,
1972-2002
Archives of Women Artists**

Finding Aid Prepared by: Sara Mahan, September, 2017
Collection Processed by: Chris Burroughs, July, 2014

National Museum of Women in the Arts
Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center
1250 New York Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
Email: lrc@nmwa.org
Phone: 202-783-5000

Table of Contents

Overview	Page 3
Administrative Information	Page 4
Organization and Arrangement Information	Page 5
Historical Note	Page 6
Scope and Content Note	Page 6
Inventory	Page 9

Overview

Repository Information:

National Museum of Women in the Arts
Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center
1250 New York Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
Email: lrc@nmwa.org
Phone: 202-266-2835

Title:

The Washington Women's Art Center Collection

Provenance:

The collection was donated to Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center, National Museum of Women in the Arts, in three parts. Artist and former WWAC member Lindsay Makepeace donated her material about the center in 2000, while two other former members, Sandra Reischel and Sarah Hyde Kline, donated their material in March and July 2002, respectively.

Collection Dates:

Inclusive Dates: 1972-2002
Bulk Dates: 1975-1983

Physical Description:

5 document boxes (approx. 2.1 linear feet)

Summary:

The National Museum of Women in the Arts is a repository for a collection of materials from the Washington Women's Art Center (known later as The New Art Center), an organization that promoted women artists and exhibited their work. The collection includes materials documenting the creation of the WWAC, exhibitions it held and sponsored, programs the center offered, news clippings and releases promoting WWAC programs, material on other women artists' organizations, including the Women's Caucus for Art, and materials related to women's causes. Items in the collection range in date from 1972 until 2002, with the majority of items dating from 1975 to 1983.

Finding Aid URL:

https://nmwa.org/sites/default/files/shared/4.3.4.2-washington_womens_art_center_records.pdf

Administrative Information

Access Information:

Unrestricted.

Preferred Citation:

Item, Date, Series, The Washington Women's Art Center Collection, (Archives of Women Artists), National Museum of Women in the Arts, Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center.

Publication and Photocopies Note:

Permission from the National Museum of Women in the Arts required for publication and reproduction of original materials. Photocopies of original materials can be made for a fee and at the discretion of the library director.

Related Materials Note:

The following imprints were removed from the WWAC collection and catalogued individually at the Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center, National Museum of Women in the Arts. The materials are catalogs of exhibitions held at, sponsored by, or supported by the WWAC:

11th Annual Washington Area-Wide Printmaker Show (1990)

13 Answers (1977)

Art World 4 (1980)

Black & White (1978)

Collage and Drawing (1981)

Contemporary Approaches to Fiber (1980)

The Eye of Adelyn Breskin (1983)

The Eye of Willem De Looper (1984)

The Eye of Hartigan (1980)

The Eye of Eleanor Munro (1982)

The Eye of Miriam Schapiro (1979)

The Eye of May Stevens (1981)

Feminist Art: Process & Product (1980)

Fiber 82: Miniatures (1982)

Final Draft (1979)

The Founders (1980)

Frankel, Moody, Nash, Pfeffer (1978)

From the Center (1977)

Audrey Lavine Glassman: A Retrospective (1983)

The Goddess Show (1984)

The Greatest Line (1978)

Let The Art Be First (1986)

New Faces (1979)

Paintings (1978)

Paintings & Sculpture (1979)

Photographs (1980)
Photographs '81 (1981)
Portraits for Alice Neel (1981)
Printmakers' Show 78 (1978)
Printmakers' Show II (1979)
Printmakers' Show III (1980)
Printmakers' Show IV (1982)
Private Spaces (1979)
Sculpture (1977)
Sculpture '82 (1982)
Shape and Texture (1983)
Southern Exposure (1981)
Thirty-Two Pieces of Paper (1981)
Washington Women's Art Center Home Show (1983)
Woman as Myth and Archetype (1982)
Woman's Tools (1981)
Women Artists '78 (1978)

The periodical collection within the Irene Rice Pereira Papers was owned by the WWAC and given to the Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center, National Museum of Women in the Arts, in 1986.

Additionally, *Records of the Washington Women's Arts Center, 1972-1988* can be found at the D.C. Community Archives Division of Special Collections at the Martin Luther King Jr. Branch of the D.C. Public Library. The collection encompasses 45 linear feet of material and is dated 1972 to 1988. Finding aid: <http://dclibrary.org/node/44269>.

Organization and Arrangement Information

Arrangement Note:

The collection is divided into 5 series and 11 subseries, organized chronologically within each topic:

- Series 1: Organizational Material
 - Subseries 1:1: Administrative records
 - Subseries 1:2: Financial

- Series 2: Printmakers Records

- Series 3: Program Materials
 - Subseries 3:1: Workshops
 - Subseries 3:2: Literary Programs
 - Subseries 3:3: Special Events

- Series 4: Promotional Materials
 - Subseries 4:1: Press Releases
 - Subseries 4:2: Exhibition Ephemera
 - Subseries 4:3: WWAC Newsletters

Subseries 4:4: News Clippings

Series 5: Related Organizations/Causes

Subseries 5:1: Women's Caucus for Art

Subseries 5:2: Other organizations/causes

Processed by:

Chris Burroughs, July 2014

Processing Note:

Some organization of the collection had been completed before its reorganization in 2014. Reorganization was deemed necessary as one box of material had not been organized as of July 7, 2014, and there were no clear series delineations. The Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center also holds a set of exhibition catalogs from the WWAC. To make these imprints more accessible, the books were removed from the Records and individually cataloged. A listing of all of the titles is in the Related Material section under "Administrative Information."

Historical/Biographical Note

The Washington Women's Art Center was created in 1975 as a non-profit organization that provided professional support and opportunities for women in the arts. Throughout its history, the WWAC would also sponsor speakers, produce literary and visual arts journals, and collaborate with other organizations to raise the profile of women artists not only in the Washington D.C. area but also around the country. The center was headquartered at 1821 Q Street NW, with renovation of the building completed in time for the center's opening in April 1975.

During its existence, the WWAC held numerous member exhibitions and special events for nationally-renowned artists, such as a fundraiser in 1978 for Judy Chicago's work "The Dinner Party." In addition, the center held art workshops and literary programs for members and non-members alike. The WWAC served as the home for the Printmaker's Groups, a semi-autonomous organization of women artists utilizing various forms of printmaking that began in 1972. The WWAC also collaborated with other organizations to promote women artists, including the Women's Caucus for Art, an umbrella group of various women's art organizations.

In the summer of 1986, the WWAC moved to a new site in Washington's Takoma neighborhood. The center also received a new name, The New Art Center, in hopes of increasing membership in the organization by attracting male artists, though continuing to pay homage to its "proud and longstanding feminine past, present, and future," according to its Summer 1986 newsletter. Despite this change, financial issues forced the membership to vote to dissolve the New Art Center in December 1988.

Scope and Content Note

The Records of the Washington Women's Art Center include materials documenting the creation of the center, administrative governance, programs and exhibitions, and collaborations with other organizations. The collection includes a nearly complete set of WWAC newsletters from its founding in 1975 through summer 1988, as well as printed information detailing exhibits sponsored by the center. In addition, there are separate sections on workshops and literary programs held at the center, a series of material on the Printmakers, and a series of material on the Women's Caucus for the Arts. Materials in the collection range in date from the 1972 until 2002, with the majority of items dating from 1975 to 1983.

SERIES 1: Organizational Material

Subseries 1:1: Administrative Records

This series of materials related to the Board of Directors, including meeting minutes and agendas, correspondence, and elections. In addition, there are annual reports, membership applications, by-laws, general organization information, financial statements, and NEH/NEA grant information. The items range in date from 1975 to 1989, with the bulk of the items dated 1976 to 1981.

Subseries 1:2: Financial

The material in this series consists of a statement of income and a budget for the WWAC, as well as a letter from the Internal Revenue Service bestowing 501(c)(3) status on the center. There are also brochures and grant application guidelines from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The materials range in date from 1975 to 1985.

SERIES 2: Printmakers Records

This series contains records specific to the Printmakers' Group, a semi-autonomous organization under the auspices of the WWAC of artists who worked in such mediums as etching, lithography, woodcut, and silkscreen. The series includes general information about the organization, membership information, correspondence, news releases, information about print exhibits, and printed material and information on the group's shows. The series dates range from 1973-1990, with the bulk of items dating between 1978 and 1983.

SERIES 3: Program Materials

Subseries 3:1: Workshops

This series includes administrative materials, exhibition invitations, and class listings for the WWAC's workshops. These classes were held at the center for members and non-members alike to learn about art techniques or broaden their knowledge base. The materials range in date from 1975 to 1983.

Subseries 3:2: Literary Programs

The WWAC also held various literary programs, including poetry and fiction readings, as well as writers' workshops. In addition, the program included production of the center journals *Centerwords* and *Womansphere*. The series ranges in date from 1974-1981.

Subseries 3:3: Special Events

The series includes held at or sponsored by the WWAC that did not fall within the parameters of their usual exhibitions or programs. This includes a fundraiser to bring “The Dinner Party” by Judy Chicago to Washington, D.C., as well as an invitation and event application to attend a lecture given by Chicago at the Museum of Natural History. There is also information on the Edith C. Blum Lecture Series, as well as information on miscellaneous other events. The series ranges in date from 1975-1989, with the bulk of the material dated 1978 to 1984.

SERIES 4: Promotional Materials

Subseries 4:1: Press Releases

This series consists of press releases by the WWAC highlighting center exhibitions and other programs. The materials are dated 1975 to 1987, with the bulk of the material between 1985 and 1986.

Subseries 4:2: Exhibition Ephemera

This series contains printed material promoting exhibits, events, or programs held at or sponsored by the WWAC. The dates for the material range 1975-1988, with the bulk of the material dated from 1977-1981.

Subseries 4:3: WWAC Newsletters

This series is a nearly complete run of newsletters produced by the WWAC. The newsletter was initially titled *1821* (a nod to the center’s street address) from April-October 1975, before changing to simply *Washington Women’s Art Center* from that point until March 1978, when it was changed again to *WWAC News*. It would continue with this latter name until September 1986, when the center changed its name to The New Art Center, thus renaming the newsletter *The New Art Center Bulletin* until the center was dissolved in late 1988. The dates range from 1975-1988, with the bulk of the material dating 1977 to 1982.

Subseries 4:4: News Clippings

This series consists of newspaper clippings of events held at or sponsored by the WWAC, as well as news on women’s art in the Washington, D.C. area. In addition, there are clippings related to the Equal Rights Amendment movement in the D.C. area. The materials range in date from 1972 to 1984, with bulk dates between 1977 and 1984.

SERIES 5: Related Organizations/Causes

Subseries 5:1: Women’s Caucus for Art

The materials in this series focus on the Women’s Caucus for Art, a national umbrella group of women’s art organizations that worked closely with the WWAC. The organization held conferences, sponsored exhibitions of women artists, and created publications about women in the arts. The series contains WCA organizational information, bylaws and financial materials, correspondence, exhibition information, conference materials, news clippings, biographies of speakers, conference abstracts and papers, and publication order forms. The material ranges in date from 1975 to 2001, with bulk dates ranging from 1977-1983.

Subseries 5:2: Other Organizations/Causes

This series contains materials on related women's art organizations and events, including the Conference of Women in the Visual Arts, the D.C. Women's Art Registry, Washington International Art Exposition, lists of women artists with works in D.C. galleries, and miscellaneous exhibition materials. In addition, there is material related to women in politics and employment. The material dates between 1972 and 1984, with the bulk of the material dated 1977-1981.

Inventory

Series 1: Organizational Material

Subseries 1.1: Administrative

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	1	Board of Directors minutes and agendas, 1976-1978
1	2	Board of Directors correspondence/contacts, 1976-1978
1	3	Board of Directors election material, 1976-1984
1	4	Annual meeting reports, 1976, 1978, 1981
1	5	Bylaws, 1975-1977, n.d.
1	6	Correspondence, 1975-1977, 1980-1981
1	7	General organizational information, 1975-1981
1	8	Membership material, 1975-1989

Subseries 1.2: Financial

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	9	Income Statements/IRS letter, 1975-1978
1	10	NEA/NEH grant material, 1982-1985

Series 2: Printmaker's Records

Box #	Folder#	Folder Title
1	11	General information, 1982, n.d.
1	12	Membership information, 1980-1981, n.d.
1	13	Correspondence, 1973-1974, 1981-1983, 1998
1	14	News clippings, 1974, 1996
1	15	Exhibit information, 1973, 1975, n.d.
1	16	Show 1 material, April 1978
1	17	Show 2 material, Oct.-Nov. 1979
1	18	Show 3 material, Oct.-Nov. 1980
2	1	1981 shows material
2	2	Show 4 material, Feb.-March 1982
2	3	1983 shows material
2	4	Shows 6, 7, 8 material, 1984-1986
2	5	Shows 9, 11 material, 1987, 1990

Series 3: Program Materials

Subseries 3.1: Workshops

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
2	6	Administrative material, 1976-1983

2	7	Exhibit invitations, 1976-1981
2	8	Class listings, 1975-1979
2	9	Class listings, 1980-1983

Subseries 3.2: Literary Programs

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
2	10	<i>Centerwords</i> journal, 1978, 1979
2	11	WWAC 5 th anniversary literary publication, 1980
2	12	<i>Womansphere</i> journal and festival information, 1974-1975
2	13	Event schedules, 1976-1981

Subseries 3.3: Special Events

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
2	14	Judy Chicago fundraiser, lecture information, 1978-1979, 1985
2	15	Edith C. Blum Lecture Series information
2	16	Miscellaneous, 1975-1989

Series 4: Promotional Materials

Subseries 4.1: Press Releases

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
2	17	1975, 1979-1987

Subseries 4.2: Exhibition Ephemera

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
2	18	1975-1977
2	19	1978-1979
2	20	1980-1981
2	21	1982-1983
2	22	1984-1985
2	23	1986-1988

Subseries 4.3: WWAC Newsletters

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
3	1	1821, April-October 1975 <i>Washington Women's Art Center</i> , November—December 1976
3	2	<i>Washington Women's Art Center</i> , 1977
3	3	<i>Washington Women's Art Center</i> , January—March, 1978 <i>WWAC News</i> , April – December, 1978
3	4	<i>WWAC News</i> , 1979
3	5	<i>WWAC News</i> , 1980
3	6	<i>WWAC News</i> , 1981
3	7	<i>WWAC News</i> , 1982
3	8	<i>WWAC News</i> , 1983
3	9	<i>WWAC News</i> , 1984—Summer 1986
3	10	<i>The New Art Center Bulletin</i> , September 1986—Summer 1988

Subseries 4.4: News Clippings

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
3	11	WWAC clippings, 1972-1984, n.d.
3	12	Equal Rights Amendment clippings, 1978

Series 5: Related Organizations/Causes

Subseries 5.1: Women's Caucus for Art

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
4	1	Organizational information, 1977-1983, n.d.
4	2	Bylaws and financial information, 1975, 1977, 1979
4	3	Meeting agendas/minutes/annual reports, 1977-1979
4	4	Correspondence, 1976-1979, 2002
4	5	Newsletters, 1977-1981
4	6	Exhibition information, 1978-1979
4	7	Miscellaneous conference material, 1979-1980, 1984-1985, 2001
4	8	"Capital Art" panel program folder, 1979
4	9	WCA Conference program folder, 1983
4	10	Miscellaneous conference schedules, 1977-1979
4	11	Conference abstracts and papers, 1978, 1980
4	12	Speaker/panelist biographies, 1980, n.d.
4	13	Publication order forms, 1979
4	14	Photographs, 1979, n.d.
4	15	News clippings, 1978-1980
4	16	Exhibit handwritten notes, women's art centers information, 1979, n.d.

Subseries 5.2: Other Organizations/Causes

Box #	Folder #	Folder Name
5	1	Conference of Women in the Visual Arts material, 1972-1973
5	2	D.C. Women's Art Registry material, 1972-1981
5	3	Washington International Art Exposition material, 1983
5	4	Miscellaneous exhibition material, 1974-1984, n.d.
5	5	Art-related news letters/news releases, 1973-1978
5	6	Lists of women artists in Washington D.C. galleries, 1977, n.d.
5	7	Women and politics/employment, 1976-1979, n.d.
5	8	Miscellaneous reports/conference proposal, 1971-1972, 1977, 1983